

# *Contents*

List of Figures	vii
Acknowledgements	xiii
 1 Introduction: At a Crossroads on the Eurasian Steppe Route	 1
At the Periphery of Space and Discourse	1
The Search for Origins: ‘Animal Style’ and Its Ambiguous Biography	8
‘Animal Style’ as Visual Rhetoric	15
Defining the Tropes	17
Pazyryk Textiles, Deer Stones and the Question of Transferability	19
Animal-Style Art in an Increasingly ‘Global’ Eurasia: Enter the Xiongnu	20
Lingering Traces	21
Some Notes on Methodology and Frameworks	22
 2 Design Idioms in Steppe Metalwork	 36
Zoomorphic Junctures: Substitution, Abbreviation, Inversion	37
Towards Bilateral Symmetry: The Power of Parallelism	71
Verticality as a Design Concept	80
Zoomorphic Entanglement: Revisiting the ‘Animal Combat’ Trope	97
The Divergent Worlds of Animal Composites	110
Receptivity, ‘Otherness’ and the Almighty Audience	118

3	The Tomb Inside Out: Playing (Mortuary) Politics	138
	Textiles as Tomb Décor at Pazyryk	140
	Wood, Bone and Leather: Transfer to 'Lesser' Materials	151
	Fantastic Beasts above Ground: Deer Stones as Antecedents	165
	Early Zoomorphism in the Ananyino Culture	172
	Final Remarks on Transferability	175
4	Animal Style in the Xiongnu Era: The Making of a New Elite	180
	Between Cosmopolitanism and Zoomorphism at Noin-Ula, Mongolia	183
	Xiongnu-Period Developments in Animal-Style Metalwork	195
	Animal Style in North Korea: The Case of Lelang	204
	Moving South: The Kingdom of Nanyue and the Southern Chinese Periphery	206
	Other Sino-Steppe Developments	211
	Fantastic Beasts of the Tarim Basin: Halfway between China and the Xiongnu	213
	New Trends in Animal Style Design between the Second Century BCE and Second Century CE	218
5	Waning and Re-emergence	226
	The Xianbei and Their 'Landscape' Tropes (Third to Fifth Century CE)	227
	The Türkic Period: A Presumed End to Zoomorphism	241
	Permian Animal Style	244
	Future Avenues: A Mongol Return?	252
	Lingering Traces: Understanding the Longevity of Animal-Style Visuality	254
6	Towards a Resolution	261
	Enter the Almighty Audience	263
	Object Itineraries	268
	West vs East Dichotomies: A Double-Edged Sword	271
	Selected Bibliography	278
	Illustration Acknowledgements	306
	Index	309